

Nonviolence is both Virtue and Strategy

Youth liberationists must choose nonviolence over violence and destruction. The fact is that youth are outgunned in everything from money to legal power to basic rights. Youth liberationists must not choose violence as a strategy against their own parents. To do so would not only be folly but also be against the spirit of the movement. Youth seek a relationship with their parents that is not based on domination but on love; in order to have a love-based relationship, they must remove the slave laws and age restrictions that allow parents to dominate youth. While it is both justifiable and righteous to feel hatred towards your parents because of your own oppression, it must be understood that a violent and destructive movement can only end with tears on our side and a massive setback for the movement. Nonviolent protest and civil disobedience are the way to political change, not violence and destruction. There is no denying that parents have used the law to enslave their own children, disenfranchise them, and sabotage them at every turn. Despite this, youth liberation seeks a relationship built on love with parents. For that loving relationship to happen, youth slavery laws and age restrictions on the vote must be repealed; the only way that those laws will be repealed is through nonviolent protest. There is no denying that there is love in the relationship between youth and their parents, but violence and destruction will destroy what little there is. Youth liberationists must pursue their freedom and political right to vote from birth with all their might, but violence and destruction will only give them the political support they need to hurt youth on a scale never seen before.

Youth Liberation, not Anti-Parenthood

Youth liberationists are not against parents. In fact, they are all for the positive aspects of parenthood. Parents provide food, water, shelter, and sometimes empathy. However, power has corrupted parenthood and turned it into an evil, twisted mockery of what the parent-child relationship is supposed to be. The days when parents could speak for their children as if they were mute, dumb, or too incompetent to speak for themselves are now over, because now is the time we stand up for our own liberation. The days when parents controlled the narrative around their own families are over, because now we start to control our own stories. Youth liberation will reform the family dynamic into a relationship based on love instead of slavery, coercion, and propaganda. Parents are not the friends of their children; the

power they now possess has corrupted their minds too much for that. Despite this, we believe that one day we'll be friends with our parents. We believe that one day, when the laws of youth domination are lifted, parents will be able to trust us as equals. One day we will be best friends, and they will be as honest and trusting towards us as we are towards them.

We Will Rage

It is important for youth liberationists to remember that a commitment to nonviolence does not mean a commitment to passivity. Make no mistake, no matter how many kind words we say or how much we try to show them that we are responsible, there is no substitute for a loud, angry protest. There is no substitute for *many* loud, angry protests. The fact is that we must force parent-slavers to give in, force them to give us the right to vote, force them to give us freedom from slavery as human property, and force them to free us from slavery in forced schooling.

It is important for us to realize that without strikes, protests, sit-ins, and demonstrations, off-line and in the streets of the real world, our slavery, disenfranchisement, and complete lack of rights will never end. It is important to realize that even if parents fully agree with us that the current slavery of youth is bad, they will never vote to change it, and they will never protest to change it. It is important to realize that if we don't get angry and loud and break the rules that our parent-slavers push on us to oppress us, we will never be free. It is important to realize that for all our talk of love and nonviolence, the word parent is legally synonymous with parent-slaver everywhere on earth. There is no country, no province, no city where parents do not both legally and effectively own their children as property. We must remember that there are no "good ones" that they are all our enemies* until we secure our place as free people, fully enfranchised, with all adult rights. It is important to recognize that they will continue to dominate us, each and every one of them, no matter how good their disposition or what ideology they subscribe to. No shift in public opinion, no platitudes, no "teen representation," no amount of branding or social media talk in their political discourse will ever change the reality of our oppression, other than protest. The *only* thing that will free us from slavery as property and slavery in forced schooling and give us the right to vote is protest.

It is the slave laws that allow parent-slavers complete and absolute power over youth; it is the slave laws that give them the hunger and drive to

dominate us. While we must not stoop to violence, looting, or destruction of property in order to achieve our aims, that does not mean we cannot get angry. We must get loud, we must get angry, we must shout and scream and rage and protest down every street, road, and highway. We must occupy businesses, restaurants, high rises, skyscrapers, apartments, and houses with sit-ins and demand justice. We must occupy every building—every courthouse, every town hall, and every post office. We must come together in plazas, in town squares, and in empty fields. We must hold demonstrations, give speeches out in the open, and disrupt the peace. We must break the law by way of civil disobedience and cause as big a stir as we can. We must make it impossible for them to ignore us; we must make it impossible for them to refuse. Our protest, our movement, must go on for months, years, and decades. We will triumph, fellow liberationists. All we need to do is fight for what's ours. All we want is what is rightfully ours, and that is never too much to ask.

*Opponents, opposition, whichever term feels more comfortable to you. What it means is that they have the opposite of our personal interests at heart and that their interests in domination and slavery cannot coexist with our interests in being both enfranchised and freepeople.

~Liberationist111